MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 MARCH 1982

Mubarak Visit to Israel

Citing Israeli radio, MENA reported that during his recent meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed the view that Mubarak's first trip to Israel should be an official visit and include a meeting with Israeli President Yitzhaq Navon. MENA said it learned that contacts are still underway to fix the visit's date and itinerary.

The Israeli Cabinet decided on 28 February that if Mubarak refuses to include Jerusalem on his itinerary, then Israel will cancel the visit despite its vast importance, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

Stand on Jerusalem -- MENA reported Egypt's position on the Jerusalem issue as outlined in the newspaper MAY: 1) When Anwar as-Sadat visited Jerusalem, he noted in his speech to the Knesset that Egypt considers east Jerusalem to be Arab land. 2) As-Sadat visited Israel twice: once in Beersheba and once in Haifa. 3) Egypt cannot relinquish its commitment to the UN position on Jerusalem. 4) Since there are parties ready to exploit opportunities to torpedo the march toward peace, Egypt's concern to maintain the march requires adherence to the principles charted by the international community. 5) Egyptian delegations that visited Israel always observed a commitment to Egypt's declared positions.

Ghurbal Remarks, Activities -- According to Cairo radio, Ambassador to the United States Ashraf Ghurbal has called on the Israeli defense minister to curb his negative comments on Middle East developments and talk about positive elements in the peace process without resorting to threats. MENA reported that Ghurbal left Cairo for Washington with important and urgent messages from Mubarak and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali for U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig respectively.

Religious Organization Indictment -- Citing MAY, MENA reported that the public prosecutor will soon announce an indictment against 170 leaders and 2,000 members of a religious organization. According to an AFP report, the defendants will be charged with attempting to change Egypt by force into an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

Israel

Evacuation Measures, Druckman Threat -- With Prime Minister Menahem Begin's approval, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon ordered the IDF to close off the Sinai in order to prevent opponents of the Sinai withdrawal from moving settlers into the area, Jerusalem television reported. Leaders of the antiwithdrawal movement were reportedly planning to bring 10,000 people into the Sinai in order to prevent the evacuation. According to Jerusalem radio, Begin told Yamit area settlers' representatives that the IDF roadblocks would remain at the entrances to the district until the final evacuation. The radio said later the IDF evacuated 200 yeshiva students who tried to settle in the Peri-el moshav in the Sinai on 1 March.

After addressing an antiwithdrawal demonstration in Jerusalem, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Hayim Druckman told Jerusalem radio's English service that he would resign from the Cabinet and go into opposition if the government does not change its stand.

Attempted Sabotage, PLO Buildup -- At a meeting with Ambassador Samuel Lewis, Sharon drew the U.S. envoy's attention to several sabotage operations attempted by the terrorists over the last few days, Jerusalem radio reported. Sharon stressed that Israel cannot forsake its natural right to self-defense, the radio added. According to an earlier radio report, Israeli officials in Washington expressed astonishment at a State Department assessment that the PLO buildup in southern Lebanon is not significant and does not affect the balance of power.

Lebanese Affairs

Habib MIssion -- U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib arrived in Israel on 28 February after 2 days of talks with Lebanese officials in Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. Earlier, Lebanese Prime Minister Sahfiq al-Wazzan told Beirut radio that his discussions with Habib had concerned southern Lebanon in particular, focusing on how to stabilize the cease-fire and prevent it from deteriorating.

Monte Carlo radio broadcast a recording of a conversation with a senior Syrian official who said he does not know whether Syria would receive Habib. According to the radio, diplomatic circles in Damascus voiced doubts about the possibility of Syria receiving Habib and said that even if the U.S. envoy visited Damascus, it is still doubtful that President Hafiz al-Asad would receive him. AFP subsequently noted than an official source said Syria is deciding whether to accede to the visit, which has been officially requested by the United States. According to SANA, a 28 February TISHRIN editorial said all U.S. missions in the region are part of the permanent U.S. policy of backing Israel. Damascus radio cited the belief of observers that Habib's present tour, like its predecessors, will clear the way for aggression.

Commenting on Habib's tour, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the PLO has nothing to offer Habib. The presence of PLO weapons in southern Lebanon or anywhere else and their modernization are a natural right, the radio stressed. Habib should realize that if Israel embarks on an adventure in Lebanon, it will pay a higher price than it imagines, the radio added. The radio also reported an AS-SAFIR commentary that called for an Arab boycott of the Habib mission.

Followup Committee Postponement -- Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus announced the postponement of the upcoming Arab Followup Committee meeting, Beirut radio reported on 28 February.

Security Situation -- The Voice of Palestine reported on 27 February that Israel and the border enclave Christian militia twice violated the cease-fire on 25 and 26 February. IDF artillery bombarded the Al-Hasbani area, the radio said, while border strip artillery shelled Hasbayya. The radio reported further shelling of Hasbayya on the evening of 27 February.

Meanwhile, Voice of Hope radio reported that Maj Sa'd Haddad sent a letter to the UNIFIL Command calling for the replacement of the Senegalese contingents by neutral units and asserting that if this is not done, Free Lebanon will act against the Senegalese.

A car bomb exploded in Beirut's Al-Awza'i area on 27 February killing 4 people and wounding 26, Beirut radio reported. The radio later noted explosions near a movie theater, a bank and a carpet shop, injuring a girl in the last incident and causing material damage in all cases. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio said two soldiers were killed in a clash between the Lebanese Army and the Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) in 'Alayh on 26 February and also reported that an internal clash among ADF soldiers in Zahlah on 28 February left 2 men dead. The Voice of Palestine broadcast a joint forces statement denying Voice of Lebanon's report that four Fatah members were killed in a clash with PFLP(GC) members south of Beirut.

PLO Comment -- The Voice of Palestine reported that in an interview with an Arab newspaper, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said he has received information that Israeli forces are on the point of launching a widespread attack on southern Lebanon that could bring them to the outskirts of Beirut. However, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf opined in a Monte Carlo radio interview that Israel will not attack at present and that information about an imminent IDF strike may have been leaked by Israel itself in an attempt to intimidate the Palestinian resistance and freeze its activities in the occupied territories. If Israel does attack the Palestinians and destroys a large part of their military power, Khalaf said, the remaining fighters will resort to "revolutionary violence." He also denied reports that the PLO has concluded an arms deal with the Soviet Union, financed by Saudi Arabia, and said he is not optimistic about U.S. envoy Philip Habib's current visit to the region.

Syria

Relations With Jordan -- An official source in Damascus confirmed that Syria and Jordan have closed their military attaches' offices in Amman and Damascus respectively, Monte Carlo radio reported.

Opposition Radio on Security Situation -- Baghdad radio's Voice of Arab Syria reported that rebels in Hamah continued to resist government forces at the end of last week. Listing areas controlled by the "Mujahidin", the radio said that government troops suffered severe losses in recent unsuccessful attacks on the rebels and that defense squads lost 51 tanks when they were lured into an ambush on 12 February. The radio also claimed that two explosions in Homs Province killed or injured hundreds of government militiamen.

DFLP Support -- Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Chairman Nayif Hawatimah told a press conference that Syria and the PLO will not allow their enemies to drive a wedge between them. In his remarks, broadcast by Damascus television, Hawatimah said the Palestinians should stand alongside Syria to safeguard its internal front against sabotage attempts and reactionary campaigns.

Iraq

In a speech to Popular Army fighters, reported by INA, President Saddam Husayn reaffirmed that Iraq welcomes volunteers from all countries and expressed confidence that Arabs from Syria, the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula, North Africa and Egypt will flow into Iraq in the next few days to participate in the war. He added that Iraq will open its borders to Syrians who want to take part and that all Iraqi embassies are prepared to receive them.

Condemning Arab rulers who support Iran, Husayn asserted that the people have turned the palaces of such rulers into prisons. He added that one of these rulers would announce his resignation if he had any conscience. If a ruler who shells one of his own towns with artillery does not leave, then his people will force his departure with bayonets, Saddam concluded.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- An Iranian Armed Forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced that Iranian planes attacked Iraq's Kirkuk oil refinery on 26 February. According to an Iraqi military communique carried by INA, two out of three Iranian F-5's that carried out the attack were shot down.

Islamic Conference Mediation -- The Islamic Conference's Good Offices Committee is to meet in Jidda on 5 March to discuss a new strategy to end the Iran-Iraq war, SPA reported. According to Karachi radio, Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq will attend the meeting.

Iran

The Mojahedin-e Khalq assassinated Tehran theologian Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Hojjati on 27 February, and Police Chief Col Ebrahim Hejazi survived an assassination attempt on the morning of 25 February, IRNA reported. Tehran radio said two members of a splinter group of the Mojahedin were killed on the 25th when revolution guards raided their hideout. IRNA reported the execution of five persons on charges of spying for Iraq, smuggling arms and plotting against the Islamic Republic.

Gulf

Citing AL-ITTIHAD, QNA reported that on the night of 25-26 February UAE border guards seized a launch carrying seven infiltrators who are nationals of a neighboring country. The paper said the seven are being interrogated.

Libyan-Tunisian Relations

Libya and Tunisia signed an economic cooperation agreement on 27 February, Tripoli radio reported. The agreement provides for the formation of a joint higher committee and for the realization of complementary development through the coordination of economic and social projects. It covers linkage in transportation and communications, trade exchange, passage of citizens, organization of manpower and cultural exchange.

In an interview with Tunisian television at the end of his visit to Tunisia, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said Libyan-Tunisian economic integration is the foundation for unity, JANA reported. Al-Qadhdhafi sharply criticized former Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouria for undermining Libyan-Tunisian relations, but praised the present Tunisian Government for its loyalty to President Habib Bourguiba. Al-Qadhdhafi also warned Tunisians that their real enemy is the United States, which is leading a "10th crusade" against Arab Muslims. He alleged that the United States is killing Tunisian olive trees in order to undermine Tunisia's olive oil production and indicated that he was disappointed that the Tunisian people did not protest the U.S. action against Libyan aircraft in the Gulf of Sidra last year.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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USSR'S SHAMSHIN ATTENDS SATELLITE STATION OPENING

LD010038 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] The relevant documents of the Shamshad satellite ground station, a gift from the USSR Government, on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Afghan-USSR treaty of friendship, which was inaugurated today, were handed to Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, by Fikryat Tebeyev, the USSR ambassador in Kabul, on behalf of the USSR Government. This station was then ceremonially opened by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand and put into operation.

The opening ceremony was attended by Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications; Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of mines and industry; a number of party Central Committee members; members of the DRA Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers; Vasily Aleksandrovich [Shamshin], USSR minister of communications; the delegation accompanying him; and ambassadors of friendly countries in Kabul.

Prior to the opening of the station, a meeting was held in the main hall of Afghan radio. After the playing of the DRA and the USSR national anthems, Vasily Aleksandrovich, the USSR minister of communications, made a speech in which he said that the successful completion of the satellite ground station is a valuable event and reflects the lofty objectives of the friendship and cooperation treaty, of which today is the 61st anniversary.

He added that the installation of this station means primarily that Afghanistan is placed in the ranks of a number of countries possessing the modern techniques of satellite communication stations. USSR Communications Minister Shamshin then said that the communications workers of the USSR, in accordance with the foreign policy of our party and government to support the people who are struggling for their independence and freedom, regard it as their sacred internationalist duty to work with their Afghan friends on the construction of a substantial number of communications projects, and on developing, organizing and exploiting Afghanistan's telegraph and postal systems.

In conclusion, the USSR communications minister congratulated the victories of the Afghan and USSR experts on making the Shamshad station operational and praised their efforts.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reported that Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications, spoke about some aspects of the Shamshad station and shed light on the USSR's assistance to the country's communications sector. Aslam Watanjar added that today a new chapter is opened in the history of our country's communications with the opening and operation of the Shamshad station, our telegraph and telephone system and radio and television broadcasts nationally and internationally will work and operate qualitatively and quantitatively better than before, via the satellites system.

In conclusion, the communications minister expressed thanks and praised the USSR and Afghan experts, including the Ministries of Communications, Public Works, Information and Culture, Transportation and Tourism and so forth who completed the Shamshad station 1 month ahead of schedule and put it into operation.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that during this ceremony a protocol on communications cooperation was signed by Aslam Watanjar and Shamshin.

An agreement for training communications cadres was also signed at this ceremony by the DRA and the USSR. The agreement was signed on the Afghan side by the deputy communications minister and on the USSR side by (Zavakhaliov), member of the USSR communications delegation.

The Shamshad satellite ground station, worth more than R7 million, was given by the USSR Communications Ministry as grant-in-aid and about 6 million afghanis from the state development budget were spent on its construction.

A telephone communications link comprising 12-80 channels, with the possibility of further expansion, has become feasible with the construction of the Shamshad station. The broadcast of DRA radio and television programs to the outside world and also the reception [words indistinct] world radio and television programs will be possible. Similarly, telex and international telephone and telegram communications can be expanded as needed through this station.

Meets With Karmal

LD010316 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon received Vasily Aleksandrovich Shamshin, the USSR minister of communications, in the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

Present at the meeting were Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications, and Fikryat Tabeyev, the USSR ambassador in Kabul.

A conversation about topics of mutual interest took place in a friendly and warm atmosphere.

Meets With Keshtmand

LD280952 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Kabul, 27 Feb (BAKHTAR) -- Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of Politburo of PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, had introductory talks with Vasily Aleksandrovich [Shamshin], the minister of communication of USSR, at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers today.

Aslam Watanjar, the minister of communication of DRA, also took part in these friendly talks.

USSR FRIENDSHIP TREATY ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

LD280940 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Kabul, 27 Feb (BAKHTAR) -- A grand meeting was held by Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the DRA and the Union of Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association here today to mark sixty-first anniversary of the friendship and cooperation agreement between Afghanistan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Addressing the audience, 'Abdolmajid Sarboland, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and vice-president of Afghan-Soviet Association said:

"61 years ago independent Afghanistan concluded the first agreement based on equal rights with a great country on 28 February 1921.

This friendship agreement between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which is considered as a foundation stone of mutual fraternal relations between the two countries, manifested its vital and constructive role in practice and increasingly turned as a basic factor towards the future developments of the relations between the two countries."

Delivering a speech on this auspicious occasion, A.F. Tabeyev, Soviet ambassador in Afghanistan, said:

"The friendship and cooperation agreement of the year 1921 between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union for the design and preparation of which V.I. Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, had a great part, has always been honoured and glorified by our people. This agreement was concluded between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan for the consolidation of friendly ties between the two countries and for the defence of the real independence of Afghanistan."

The Soviet ambassador added: "This agreement has always assisted towards the strengthening and development of fruitful cooperation between our countries and the victory of national and democratic revolution in Afghanistan in April 1978 introduced a new phase quality-wise in the history of expansion and development of Soviet-Afghan relations.

The function was attended by the members of Politburo, a number of the members of the Central Committee of the PDPA, some members of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers of the DRA, Presidium of the Union of Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society and ambassadors of friendly countries in Afghanistan.

RATEBZAD GREETS USSR COUNTERPART ON ANNIVERSARY

GF271806 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] The message of greetings for the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the treaty of the friendship between the DRA and the Soviet Union, addressed to Antonov, the president of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society, was (?dispatched) on behalf of Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the Politiburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the DRA:

Comrade S.F. Antonov: I am pleased to congratulate you and through you to the Presidium of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society on behalf of the Presidium of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society and on my own behalf on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the signing of the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty.

[Words indistinct] that this (?addition) of friendship between the people of the DRA and the Soviet Union has changed to a genuine brotherhood. The people of Afghanistan have always appreciated the fraternal and international assistance of the Soviet Union. We [word indistinct] upon the further (?flourishing) of the great Soviet Union.

BULGARIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN KABUL

GF221639 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The delegation of the joint commission of Afghan and Bulgaria for the economic, technical and scientific cooperation headed by Rumen Serbezov, the light industries minister of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, arrived in Kabul today. Fazl Rahim Mohmand, the minister of agriculture and land reform and the president of the Afghan delegation to the meeting of the Afghan-Bulgarian joint cooperation commission, and the ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in Kabul received the delegation at the Kabul International Airport.

During its stay in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the delegation will attend the sessions of the Afghan-Bulgarian joint economic, technical and scientific commission. The meeting of the commission is expected to last for 1 week. The delegation is scheduled to visit some development projects also and to hold talks with related authorities of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on matters of interest to both parties.

Meets With Keshtmand

LD271036 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met this afternoon in his office with Roman Sirbizov, minister of light industry of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and head of the delegation to the joint commission on Afghan-Bulgarian economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

Present at the meeting were Fazl Rahim Mohmand, minister of agriculture and land reform, and Mladen Mladenov, ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in Kabul. Talks and discussion were held about the subjects of mutual interest in a friendly and sincere atmosphere.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD010626 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 28 Feb (BAKHTAR) -- The Afghan-Bulgarian joint commission signed a protocol on economic, technical and scientific cooperation yesterday.

This protocol envisages four industrial projects, four agriculture projects and a number of joint investments projects to be financed from the Bulgarian credit of 35 million U.S. dollars.

The Bulgarian delegation, which had arrived in Kabul last week, also visited some development projects in Kabul and Nangarhar Provinces.

DAWN: 30,000 SOVIET FAMILIES SETTLE IN NORTH

GF271145 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Feb 82 p 7

[Text] Peshawar, Feb 25 [PPI] -- About 30,000 Russian families have recently entered into the northern provinces of Afghanistan, bordering with the Soviet Union, namely, Samangan, Mazar-e Sharif, Qonduz and Takhar, for permanently settling there.

According to knowledgeable sources, reporting from across the border, the Russian authorities were planning to settle these families alongside the areas bordering Russia, for which several hundred local people have been forcefully shifted from these areas.

These Russian families were said to have been sheltered for the time being in the houses and places vacated by the Afghan mujahidin. Side by side, the process of getting the population vacated was in full swing.

They have dragged out hundreds of Afghan people with the help of military forces. The homeless people, who had been compelled to take shelter in nearby hills, were badly affected by the severe cold and hundreds of their children and old women and men were said to have died of the cold.

It was feared that if the evacuation plight remained in operation, more people would lose their lives.

It may be recalled that the Afghan mujahidin had recently launched several attacks inside the Russian territories from the borders of these provinces.

Now the Russian high command have decided to build their permanent settlements in these areas, obviously to make them secure from storming by the Afghan freedom-fighters.

AFP REPORTS 'HEAVY FIGHTING' AROUND KABUL

BK271053 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Islamabad, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Heavy fighting around the Afghan capital Kabul early this week took a heavy toll in civilian and government casualties, travellers reaching the bordering Pakistani town of Peshawar said today.

Nearly 80 Soviet and Afghan soldiers were killed in one heavy clash near the capital, and Soviet planes had used napalm, the sources quoted Afghans as saying.

The fighting spread in the area 14 km (10 miles) north of Kabul and continued until Wednesday, the sources said. There was no immediate confirmation today of the report.

The Soviet troops resorted to "massive retaliatory bombing" raids using MiGs and helicopters to crush the armed resistance, the sources said.

The Soviet planes also used napalm bombs resulting in "a lot of women and children casualties."

The situation in Kabul was tense and Soviet families were assembling in the Pol-e Khomri area of the city, the sources said.

Meanwhile resistance sources in Quetta, capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, said today the situation in Qandahar has "improved" in their favour.

The rebels had lost control of the second biggest Afghan city during the Soviet-Afghan troops' winter operation.

Despite the Soviet blockade, freedom fighters, who were exhausting their ammunition, had succeeded in getting a small quantity of arms to the rebels, the resistance sources said.

Soviet troops last week cut the rebel supply after closing the borders with Pakistan. Sporadic clashes were continuing despite the government control of the garrison town.

The Soviet-backed Afghan regime soon after regaining its hold on Qandahar set up 20 checkpoints in the city.

But, the resistance sources said that soldiers of seven such posts had defected the Afghan Army and were on their way to Pakistan.

PESHAWAR POLICE DISCOVER 'ABOMINABLE' PLOT

BK211631 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The police have discovered an abominable plot by destructive elements to create havoc by putting explosive material inside the holy Koran. This was stated by a police spokesman in Peshawar today. The spokesman said: Included among these 99 persons are terrorists who were trained in Afghanistan returned to Pakistan to carry out destructive activities. The spokesman said various types of inflammable materials were also recovered from them and investigation of this matter is going on.

The newsmen were shown the holy Koran in which pages were meticulously torn and explosive material was placed. The first page of the holy Koran was stuck to the explosive material to avoid any suspicion. This holy Koran was fastened with a colored ribbon which gave it a beautiful look and the appearance of a gift.

The spokesman said: This appears to be the first time a group of Muslim terrorists has converted the holy Koran into an inflammable weapon for its abominable intentions. The spokesman said: I cannot imagine any Muslim carrying out such disgraceful act on the Koran.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said the police have detected many destructive plots and thwarted them. The newsmen were shown some more inflammable materials seized by the police from time to time which bear foreign markings.

When asked about the person against whom this weapon was to be used, the spokesman, without naming any person, said that evidently it was to be used against someone who is known to regard the holy Koran highly.

Al-Zulfiqar Members Identified

BK240225 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Official sources said in Peshawar today that the terrorists who wanted to use the holy Koran as a booby trap have been identified to be the members of the terrorist organization, Al-Zulfiqar. The booby trap prepared after punching [as heard] the holy book from [words indistinct] border was smuggled into Peshawar from across the Durand line as part of the organization's subversive activities. It was supposedly to be presented to some important personality in the country whose love for Islam and the holy Koran was fully known.

RAIDS UNCOVER ARMS AT SIND UNIVERSITIES

GF251315 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Feb 82 pp 1, 12

[Text] A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered and a number of students arrested, following raids conducted on some major educational institutions of Sind.

An official handout said that at the Jamshoro University, one 303 rifle, two Sten-guns, three shotguns, eight pistols and 80 rounds of assorted bullets were recovered and six students arrested.

At the Tando Jam Agriculture University, one sword, 12 live bullets, a few empties and 9 kilograms of bhang were recovered.

From the student quarters at Shaikh Zaid Colony at Larkana, where some students of Chandka Medical College reside, four daggers, five empties of 32 calibre, 30 live rounds of various calibre, 14 bottles of whisky and considerable quantity of pornographic and subversive literature were recovered. Seven arrests were made.

The official handout said:

"The administration has, for some time past, been noticing with concern the growth of indiscipline and the resultant vitiation of academic atmosphere by small groups of students in the premier educational institutions of the province. These groups have been pressurizing other students to boycott classes and in certain cases have forcibly expelled them from their hostels under threat to life and limb.

"It may be recalled that some time ago, similar situations in Ned University and the University of Karachi were dealt with firmly by the administration, as a result of which a number of mischievous and crimes-prone students were rusticated, a number of whom are now facing criminal charges.

"It will further be recalled that a large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered from the premises of these universities.

"It has been within the knowledge of the administration that similar attempts to create indiscipline by a certain group of students were being made at other universities in Sind and also in some colleges. All efforts by the administration and the teaching staff of these institutions to persuade the students to refrain from gross acts of indiscipline have failed. The parents of a number of students were also called and asked to persuade their wards, but in most cases they indicated their total helplessness in the matter. When all appeals and all attempts at persuasion had failed, the administration, in consultation with the heads of these academic institutions, was forced to take action."

'CRIMINAL, ANTISOCIAL ELEMENTS' ARRESTED IN SIND

BK261030 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] The martial law authorities, with police assistance, took action yesterday against criminals and antisocial elements throughout Sind. In all, 528 persons were taken into custody. One hundred and fifty-nine illegal weapons, including pistols and revolvers, were also confiscated. A large amount of destructive literature and stolen goods worth about 200,000 rupees were also recovered.

AFP Report

BK270921 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Islamabad, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Several thousand people have been arrested throughout Pakistan during the past 48 hours in a massive crackdown on "anti-social elements."

More than 3,000 persons had been rounded up in the central Punjab and southern Sind Province, following the discovery of a foreign-inspired terrorist plan to kill leading personalities in Pakistan, official sources confirmed.

Security men were alerted after last week's seizure of copies of a booby-trapped version of the Muslim holy book Koran which sparked a nationwide protest. Containing highly explosive material, the devices, reportedly smuggled into Pakistan from Afghanistan, were each sufficient to destroy an average house, the sources said.

Arrested terrorists, allegedly belonging to the Al-Zulfiqar group opposing military rule in the country, disclosed that the neatly-packed booby traps were to be [words indistinct] leading religious and government figures, the [words indistinct]. The arrests were made in a special drive carried out on the orders of Pakistani military ruler General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Police were interrogating those detained to establish any links with the Kabul-based group.

A large quantity of foreign and local-made weapons, and a huge stock of subversive literature, had also been recovered in the operation, police said.

HAQ DECLINES TO COMMENT ON INDIAN DELAY IN TALKS

BK271635 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that there has been no change in Pakistan's stand on Kashmir. He said: I do not know why the Government of India has postponed the visit of the Indian delegation to Pakistan to hold another round of talks on Pakistan's proposal for a no-war pact. He reiterated that Pakistan will not respond until an official text of the statement is received. He expressed the hope that India will respond positively.

Talking to newsmen at Lahore Airport this evening, the president said: Until we hear from New Delhi officially, it would be premature for me to comment on India's reaction. In reply to a question, he said that during first round of talks on Pakistan's proposal for a no-war pact, no conditions were put forward by the other party and that whatever is being said in this regard is sheer propaganda.

In reply to another question about India's reaction, the president said Pakistan should not try to complicate the situation. He said Pakistan is determined to establish peaceful relations with its all its neighbors, India, the Soviet Union, Iran and China. He said: We should do our best to establish respectable relations which are free from tensions and external interference involving neighboring countries. We should be very careful in this regard. We should neither say anything nor pay attention to any matter which would vitiate this objective.

When asked to comment on the alleged statement by Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon that elections are linked with the Afghanistan problem, the president said: I will give a detailed statement on this subject after I have discussed it with him. However, in general, I believe that the time is still not favorable for holding elections. The president added that Pakistan's situation is deeply connected with the developments across the border and that we should not ignore this aspect of the matter.

When his attention was drawn to the statement of Federal Advisory Council Chairman Khwaja Mohammad Safdar that the elections can be held within 1 year, the president said: Khwaja Mohammad Safdar has said elections can be held after 1 year and the press has written they can be held within 1 year -- there is a great difference between these two statements. He said: As far as elections are concerned, our stand is unchanged. However, as I have said repeatedly, we will have to devise some method for transferring power.

The details of the president's comments to newsmen are still coming in.

More on Comments to Press

BK271736 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Excepts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that there has been no change in Pakistan's stand on Kashmir.

Talking to newsmen at Lahore Airport this evening, the president said unless he officially heard from New Delhi, it would be premature for him to comment on the Indian reaction.

Answering a question about restrictions on the movement of politicians, the president said this is not a permanent affair. The government will allow them to move as freely as any other citizens. He said he respected all the politicians but unfortunately, over the last 35 years the pattern has been such that it is not conducive to productive politics. Political activity, he said, was a very important aspect of national activities.

He said his only effort has been to bring sanity into politics and not to allow negative politics and politics of agitation and politics based on personal motives. He said he was sure there was realization about it and in due course of time the situation will change.

Answering a question about the holding of a roundtable conference with the politicians, the president said he felt no useful purpose will be served by such a conference. He said he is already in contact with certain politicians and he would like to meet others also so that they could devise ways and means through understanding for the good of the country.

He said contrary to what has been reported in the press, he had not received any political formula from any party for solving the problems facing the country.

Asked to comment on the arrests made throughout the country yesterday, the president said, to be exact, 2,132 persons have been detained. He said the measure had been taken with a view to giving peace-loving citizens a sense of security and a sense of confidence and to prove the fact that the government is effective. He said if the normal laws fail to ensure security and confidence then it becomes necessary for the government to take extraordinary measures. He said during his talks with newsmen in Karachi the day before yesterday, his attention was drawn to the law and order situation in the (?interior) of Sind. He said he was informed that certain elements were trying to create trouble and disturb the law and order. He, however, pointed out that those detained will be treated with the honor and dignity that a human being deserves. They will not be subjected to physical or mental torture. However, if anyone after a fair trial is found innocent he will be released. So far as the politicians were concerned, they were respectable citizens and have nothing to do with law and order.

Answering a question he said he proposed to expand the federal Cabinet in due course.

CABINET CONSIDERS FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS

BK010306 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The federal Cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi today under the chairmanship of President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq ratified the Colombo declaration and the articles of association of the South Asia cooperative environment program. Pakistan, as a member of the program, will be able to draw from the resources of other countries in the region in areas where the desired level of expertise is not available within the country.

The Cabinet approved the proposed agreement on cooperation between radio and television organizations of Pakistan and China to further strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement between Turkey and Pakistan on technical and scientific cooperation as well as the cultural agreement between Pakistan and Somalia were also ratified. The Cabinet gave its approval to the proposed agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between Pakistan and Argentina.

Later, the federal information secretary told newsmen that the outgoing foreign minister, Agha Shahi, thanked the president and his Cabinet colleagues for the confidence reposed in him and the support extended to him in the successful implementation of the country's foreign policy which is peaceful, nonaligned and in accordance with the [word indistinct] of relations. He particularly thanked the president for his guidance on the formulation and execution of the foreign policy. He informed the Cabinet about the difficult situation through which Pakistan passed during the last few years and how the problems under crisis were overcome.

The information secretary said the president and the Cabinet appreciated Agha Shahi's handling of Pakistan foreign policy which reflected the aspiration of the people and enhanced the country's image abroad. The Cabinet placed on record its deep appreciation of the services rendered by Agha Shahi. He further told newsmen that Agha Shahi's new appointment would be as the honorary visiting professor to the Pakistan universities in international affairs.

The Cabinet was also informed about the Indian decision to defer the visit of its foreign secretary to Islamabad and Pakistan's reaction to it.

Replying to a question, the information secretary said all those persons who were involved in the nefarious attempt to use the holy Koran as the booby trap would be exposed to the nation and awarded exemplary punishment. In reply to another question, he said the recent arrests of terrorists did not come up for discussion before the Cabinet. He, however, emphasized that the government could not permit anyone to disturb peace and indulge in terrorism and subversive activities.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF PRC'S WANG BINGNAN

Comments on Afghanistan

BK250726 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Wang Bingnan, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, has said that international public opinion should exercise its influence for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan so that millions of displaced Afghan refugees can return to their homeland with dignity and honor. He said this while talking to newsmen in Quetta yesterday.

Addresses Karachi Reception

BK270405 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Wang Bingnan, leader of visiting Chinese delegation and president of Chinese Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, has said people of Pakistan and China are peace-loving, but if their security is threatened, they know how to defend it. Addressing a reception in Karachi last night, which was hosted by the Pakistan-China Friendship Association in their honor, he said Pakistan-China friendship is based on principles and mutual benefit.

Talks With Sind Governor

BK280200 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] The three-member Chinese delegation called on Sind Governor Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi in Karachi today and discussed matters of mutual interest. They exchanged gifts. The leader of the delegation, Wang Bingnan, who is the president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, said China considers Pakistan an important country in this region. He said China highly esteems the important role played by Pakistan in international affairs.

Comments on Visit

BK281042 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Leader of the visiting Chinese delegation Wang Bingnan has said their visit to Pakistan will lead to further promotion of friendship and mutual understanding between our two peoples. He was talking to a Radio Pakistan representative after his visit to the Pakistan national museum in Karachi this morning.

Wang Bingnan said that they came to Pakistan with the friendship of the Chinese people and are leaving for China with the friendly sentiments of Pakistan for our own people.

Referring to his visit to the national museum, he said from the (?objects) they saw they were sure that both China and Pakistan have highly civilized Asian cultures and they made great contributions to mankind. He said these cultures were worth our study.

Departs for Dacca

BK281554 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The Chinese good-will delegation visited the national museum in Karachi today.

The delegation later left Karachi for Dacca this afternoon after concluding its 10-day visit to Pakistan.

JORDAN CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ARRIVES IN LAHORE

BK241531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Crown Prince Hassan ibn Talal and Princess Tharwat of Jordan arrived in Lahore this afternoon on a 8-day visit to Pakistan.

The president and Begum Mohammad Ziaul Haq welcomed the distinguished guests at the airport.

A 19-gun salute heralded the arrival of the royal guest. Two children dressed in traditional Pakistani costumes presented bouquets to the distinguished guests.

Punjab Government Lt Gen Ghaulam Jilai Khan; Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan, the chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Committee; Vice Chief of Army Staff Gen Sawar Khan; Air Chief Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim; Rear Admiral I.S. Kadir, the representative of the naval chief; and federal and provincial ministers were present to welcome the distinguished guests.

BRIEFS

CANADIAN LOAN -- Canada will provide Pakistan an interest-free loan of $15 million for importing materials including consumer goods. An agreement to this effect was signed in Islamabad today. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Feb 82 BK]

NEW FLOATING DOCK -- The new floating dock of the Pakistan Navy was commissioned today. With the completion of the dock, the navy has become capable of meeting its requirements on its own. All the work for the construction of the new dock, from designing to the completion, was done with indigenous resources. Addressing at the inauguration of the dock, Naval Chief Adm Karamat Rahman Niazi said that construction of the dock has considerably enhanced the navy's capacity to repair and overhaul its vessels and submarines. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 82 BK]

IRAQ REMOVED FROM U.S. LIST OF TERRORIST COUNTRIES

LD270938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Following America's unstinting support for the aggressive regime in Baghdad, the Reagan government has removed Iraq from the U.S. list of so-called terrorist countries. In so doing America has taken another step in support of its puppet regime.

Yesterday Reagan's government removed Iraq from the above-mentioned list and named Cuba instead. No objections were raised by anybody against adding Cuba's name to the list.

The three other countries, besides Cuba, which are on the U.S. list of so-called terrorist countries from the point of view of the CIA are Libya, Syria and South Yemen.

Carter's government prepared this list in 1979 in order to ban the export of certain goods and for other security and military reasons against countries that, in America's view, support terrorism.

Reagan Decision Scored

GF281839 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] At last U.S. imperialism has revealed the nature of its agent, Saddam at-Tikriti, who has been hiding behind revolutionary and progressive slogans for more than 14 years.

The Reagan administration has announced that the Saddamist regime is no longer one of the regimes supporting international terrorism -- according to the U.S. administration. In other words, the name of the Iraqi regime has been crossed from the list of countries banned from purchasing U.S. arms because of their support for world liberation movements or, according to the U.S. black house, their support for international terrorism. This comes at a time when the U.S. administration is on the top of the list of those that support terrorism and at a time when the world countries suffer under the yoke of its sanguine terrorism in more than one place, particularly in El Salvador, Guatemala and Chile.

The question is: How did the U.S. administration become sure that the Saddamist regime is no longer supporting terrorism -- according to it -- at a time when Saddam's record shows that his clique is deeply involved in terrorism and assassinations in more than one capital, not to mention his oppressive, terrorist practices inside Iraq?

How does the Reagan administration construe the Iraqi regime's dispatch of explosives to the Iraqi Embassy in Pakistan, the uncovering of this by the Pakistani authorities and the subsequent expulsion of Iraqi diplomats?

How does the Reagan administration explain the Saddamist regime's assassination of Hardan at-Tikriti, the Iraqi regime's vice president, in Kuwait and the media blackout that followed this assassination? The elements who assassinated him were not (?identified) because of the pressures the Iraqi authorities used against Kuwait.

How does the Reagan administration explain the involvement of Saddamist intelligence in the attack against the Iranian Embassy in London about 2 years ago, an attack which caused the martyrdom of a number of embassy employees?

How does the Reagan administration explain the explosion that took place in the Iraqi Embassy in London and the fact that the Iraqi intelligence's agents did not allow British firemen to enter the embassy building to extinguish the fire, a thing which was done to cover up conspiracies, terrorism and plots to carry out assassinations that were being woven inside the embassy?

Yes, how does the Reagan administration explain these terrorist practices the Saddamist regime has carried out, in addition to the scores of acts of terrorism -- such as the assassination of Dr Tawfiq Rushdi, the Iraqi professor at Aden University in 1979; the assassination of 'Adil Wasfi, the Iraqi journalist in Lebanon in 1979; the assassination of scholar 'Abd al-Mun'im ash-Shufi after he was kidnapped in Kuwait in 1980 and taken to Baghdad where he was killed by the Saddamist intelligence; and the assassination of Hashim 'Abbud, the Iraqi journalist who was working with the Palestinian news agency last year?

Yes, there are scores of such examples that prove the Saddamist regime's involvement in international terrorism, just as there are examples proving that the Reagan administration is leading international terrorism to stifle the ambitions of the anti-U.S. imperialist peoples in the world. After these criminal terrorist activities, the Reagan administration announced that it crossed the name of the Iraqi regime from the list of countries banned from purchasing U.S. arms because -- as it claims -- the Saddamist regime is not carrying out any acts of international terrorism. In this regard, the Reagan administration has informed Congress that it has crossed the name of the Saddamist regime from the list and has replaced it with Cuba.

The fact is that this U.S. step has come at a critical and fateful time for Saddam at-Tikriti's regime, which has received painful and deadly blows from the Islamic Iranian forces on the warfront, despite all of the materiel it has received from various Western and Eastern countries, beginning with Soviet tanks and ending with advanced French Mirages and various weapons from Brazil, Italy and other countries. Of course, the Reagan administration's decision to cross the name of the Saddamist regime from the black list will allow U.S. arms factories to directly export gigantic military transport aircraft and various other materiel to be used in the war currently being waged against revolutionary Iran after Saddam used to receive these arms indirectly through some agent regimes, like the Jordanian and Saudi regimes and regimes of other Gulf countries.

The U.S. State Department has announced that three countries are still on the black list, which bans the sale of arms. These countries are Syria, Libya and the PDRY because of their anti-imperialist stand and their support for world liberation movements the Reagan administration allegedly claims to be terrorist movements. The fact is that the Reagan administration prepared this list to include the countries which reject direct or indirect U.S. hegemony. The best example of this is that the list includes progressive countries like Syria, Libya, the PDRY and, lastly, democratic Cuba, which was added to the list after a long time, having been forgotten by imperialism before.

Last but not least, the Reagan administration's decision -- in which it sympathetically viewed the Saddamist regime -- came a short time after the French Government decided to deliver the advanced Mirages to the Iraqi regime despite its continued war against revolutionary Iran and despite the fact that this decision contravenes the late President de Gaulle's stipulations on the delivery of arms to warring parties, particularly after the 1967 war.

We have to ask one more question: What is the new page the Reagan administration will open as a tribute to Saddam at-Tikriti and his regime? Will the next step be the resumption of political relations between the Baghdad of Saddam and the Washington of Reagan and the inauguration of a new U.S. Embassy in Baghdad?

UN ENVOY PALME ARRIVES IN TEHRAN 26 FEB

LD261846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Olof Palme, special envoy of the UN secretary general, arrived in Tehran this afternoon. He is visiting Iran in connection with the Iraqi-imposed war. Mr Palme was welcomed at the airport by Mr Kazempur-Ardabili, under secretary in charge of international and economic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and several other officials of this ministry. He will meet and confer with Foreign Minister Velayati tonight.

Khamene'i Restates Conditions

LD272034 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Olof Palme, the UN special envoy, who is currently in Iran, tonight met and conferred with Mr Khamene'i, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, also attended this meeting in the process of which Mr Khamene'i, the Iranian president, elaborated on the conditions of the Islamic Republic of Iran for bringing about a just peace between the regimes of Iran and Iraq, which go as such: unconditional withdrawal, conditions for the war damages and also punishment of the aggressor.

Council Discusses Mediation

LD281214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Supreme Defense Council met tonight under the chairmanship of Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and the head of the Supreme Defense Council. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the council; Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, the chief of the Joint Staff of the armed forces; Colonel Salimi, the minister of defense; Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi, the commander of the ground forces; Brother Sham'khani, the acting commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs; a number of commanders of the ground forces; and Mr Kamal Gharazi were present.

The council discussed the situation at the war fronts and future war plans. They also discussed the mediation role of Olof Palme, the UN secretary general's special envoy, in the war the Ba'thist Saddam regime has imposed on Iran and Palme's visit to Iran following his visit to Baghdad. Certain decisions were made.

Rafsanjani on Mediation

LD281218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Interview with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani following the 27 February Supreme Defense Council meeting -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, what issues were discussed at tonight's Supreme Defense Council session and what decisions were made?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A large part of tonight's session was taken up by reports from the fronts. The commander of the ground forces and other military commanders elaborated on the Tang-e Chazzabeh operations. Some of the discussion was devoted to the points raised by Mr Palme in connection with his trip and his mediation role.

[Question] Are there any new points in Mr Palme's proposals? Would you please explain Iran's conditions?

[Answer] Of course, some of the proposals have been changed, but our conditions are so right, clear and straightforward that he cannot deny them. Anyone who comes here as a mediator and is confronted by our conditions is unable to reject these conditions.

We have asked that three conditions be met. One is that the invading forces should leave our soil; another is that damages and losses inflicted on us as a result of the war should be paid; lastly, the aggressor should be punished for his actions. Now, the mediator cannot say that the invading forces should stay on our soil, that the damages sustained by the imposed war should not be repaid, or that the aggressor should not be punished. Although they might ask us to withdraw our condition that the aggressor be punished, we would tell those people that this is not in any way a personal vendetta. The world has suffered from a wrong deed, a war has been imposed on a country, the security of a region has been disrupted and a number of innocent people have been killed or wounded. Therefore, no one can logically ask us to not follow this condition.

In this visit Mr Palme accepted the unconditional withdrawal of troops; however, immediately after this acceptance he said that negotiations on borders and the Shatt al-'Arab [Arvand Rud] should come later. Although the withdrawal of troops is unconditional, asking us to have negotiations later is a condition in itself.

He accepts the amount of damage sustained but then he says that Iran's losses should be repaid under UN supervision and from voluntary aid by other countries of the world. We do not accept this. We want repayment by the aggressor; Saddam should pay for the damages, or at least for a part of them. Of course, if there are sources willing to contribute, they can pay Saddam and then Saddam can pay us. In any case, our damages should be recompensed.

The mediators seem to have progressed a few steps, but in reality they have not; they have merely changed some of their [word indistinct]. As in the past, we have announced -- and Mr President has said this too -- that we do not seek war. We want peace, but we do not want to sacrifice the truth for a slogan. Realities and rights should be taken into account. This should serve as a lesson to others so that no other country will dare to violate the borders of another and cause problems, and so that everyone will get what they deserve.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Palme Departs

LD281124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Olof Palme, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, left Tehran at noon today for Geneva at the end of a 3-day visit. During his stay in Tehran he met and conferred with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, and Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, on finding a solution to end the imposed war by Iraq on Iran. In these negotiations, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated their stances in connection with the war.

KHAMENE'I SENDS MESSAGES TO FOREIGN LEADERS

LD010400 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 28 Feb (IRNA) -- President Khamene'i today sent messages to the presidents of Algeria, Venezuela, Nigeria and the secretary general of the Polisario Front, thanking them for having sent messages of congratulations on the occasion of the third anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

In part of his message to President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, President Khamene'i said that the Islamic revolution of Iran provided an opportunity for the Iranian nation and government to know who were their friends in the world.

Among its friends, he said, was the great nation of Algeria, which by its historic sacrifice of nearly one million people put an end to the domination of foreigners. At present the revolutionary Muslim people of Iran face a ruthless enemy, the United States, he stressed, adding that it does [words indistinct] any opportunity to make Islam kneel down. So far everywhere, including the crucial Persian Gulf region, it has resorted to all sorts of political, economic and military provocations against the Islamic revolution of Iran, he added. The [words indistinct] further added that the United States also has violated its obligations in the agreement concerning the release of the American spies, said the message. President Khamene'i said that the Iranian nation is ready for self-sacrifice for the objectives of freedom and independence and would not let the domination [words indistinct] powers to stain its homeland with imperialism.

In his message to President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran the hegemonist powers and their agents in the region and the country have tried to create problems for the revolutionary Muslim nation of Iran and to force Islam to kneel down. However, he added, with the help of God neither direct military intervention and attacks nor the political, economic and the imposed war by the Ba'thist regime of Iraq as well as waves of blind terrorism, have been able to halt the advance of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

In a message addressed to the president of Venezuela, President Khamene'i said that friendly relations enjoyed by both countries due to their membership in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was of great importance. He also said that the two countries by adopting unified stances in the organization would be able to guarantee the rights of their nations.

In the message cabled to the secretary general of the Polisario Front, Mohammad 'Abd al-'Aziz, President Khamene'i said that world imperialism led by the United States was trying to destroy Islam which was the major source of inspiration for the genuine revolutionaries of the region. He also said that the two nations were facing the same enemy which was plotting against the Iranian nation in the Persian Gulf.

ALGIERS PAPER ON VELAYATI NEWS CONFERENCE

PM251343 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 18 Feb 82 p 14

[APS report on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's 17 February press conference in Algiers: "Agreement on Broad Cooperation"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Benyahia and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati signed an Algerian-Iranian technological and cultural agreement late yesterday morning in the VIP lounge of Houari Boumedienne irport.

Shortly afterward Mr Velayati left Algiers at the end of an official visit to Algeria lasting several days at Mr Benyahia's invitation.

In a statement to APS, Mr Velayati said that his visit, which "reflects both countries' desire to strengthen their bilateral relations," provided an opportunity for an exchange of viewpoints and was fruitful.

"The agreement that we have signed," Mr Velayati added, "concerns the strengthening of cultural exchanges between these two Muslim countries. We are working to enrich this agreement by means of the exchange of ideas and viewpoints," the Iranian minister concluded.

At a press conference shortly before his departure the Iranian diplomatic chief said that "Iran has not asked Algeria to mediate in the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

"The conditions for peace with Iraq," the Iranian minister added, "have not changed since the outbreak of war and are as follows:

"1 -- The withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iranian territory;

"2 -- The payment of war damages;

"3 -- An international inquiry to determine the aggressor."

Dr Velayati explained that the aim of his visit was to strengthen relations between Algeria and Iran -- "two progressive countries" -- and that the discussions broached commercial, cultural and industrial exchanges between the countries, formally denying reports of supplies of Israeli equipment to Iran.

"The Western mass media," he said, "are all under Zionist control, as is known, and these reports are part of a conspiracy against all countries at war with Israel."

Dr Velayati recalled the Iranian Islamic revolution's first actions on behalf of the Palestinian cause: the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Israel, the cutting off of oil supplies to Tel Aviv and South Africa and the closing of the Israeli Embassy, which now houses the Palestinian mission.

Moreover, Iranian revolution guards are preparing to leave for the Golan to fight the Israeli enemy.

At the latest UN General Assembly session the Iranian delegation -- "one of the strongest, both qualitatively and quantitatively" -- took a firm stand alongside the "Syrian and Palestinian brothers" and contributed to the condemnation of the Zionist enemy.

"Last, Imam Khomeyni was the first to reject the Fahd plan, which ignores the Palestinian people's rights," Dr Velayati added.

"Our relations with the PLO are very good," the Iranian minister continued, "and we say that the Palestinian people must be helped both politically and militarily. The only thing Israel understands is force; it is the only language it understands. We reject all peaceful solutions, such as Camp David, which aim only at perpetuating the domination of the Palestinian people.

"We will do our duty in this liberation struggle."

With regard to the seventh nonaligned summit, due to be held in Baghdad this year, Dr Velayati explained that his country has asked for the conference to be postponed and that Fidel Castro, President Kraigher of Yugoslavia and Mrs Indira Gandhi have been advised of this stance.

In answer to a question concerning the sending of Jordanian volunteers to the Iraqi-Iranian front, Dr Velayati said he sees the hand of imperialism in this action, adding that the visits by U.S. Secretary of State Haig and other U.S. leaders to Morocco and the increased military cooperation between the countries are also directed against the Saharan and Iranian peoples, since the formation of a Moroccan volunteer force for the Iraqi-Iranian front has been announced.

"We know that the Moroccan king acted as intermediary in the conclusion of the Camp David agreements and the As-Sadat-Begin meeting."

We have heard that Iran has declared its willingness to organize unilaterally the reuniting of Iraqi prisoners with their families in the two countries proposed, Turkey and Kuwait.

Iranian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili told correspondents Tuesday that Turkey and Kuwait would, according to "certain reports," accept the memorandums relating to the applications for visits submitted by Iraqi families via their embassy in Tehran.

MISSION LEADER ON VISIT TO SYRIA, LEBANON

LD281108 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 28 Feb (IRNA) -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestari, a Majlis deputy from Tehran and the head of the Iranian mission which had travelled to Syria and Lebanon to speak on the Islamic revolution, said his trip had been on the whole very successful.

Accompanied by a number of other Majlis deputies, including Sunni deputies, on that trip, Hojjat ol-Eslam Shabestari said the mission, while in Lebanon, reiterated its support for the deprived Lebanese people (?and, while in) Syria, the mission met with the Syrian Parliament speaker, who had supported Iran in one of the sessions of the Arab countries in Kuwait recently. He added that the Syrian Parliament speaker stressed on the downfall of Saddam and the increase in relations between the Iranian and Syrian Parliaments. He continued that he had met also with the Syrian Awqaf minister and mufti.

The mission took part in the Friday prayers of the Abunnur Mosque and stressed on the unity of Muslims and the similarity of the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran with the aggressions of the Zionist regime on the people of Palestine and Lebanon.

He added that the mission also visited the Golan Heights, the camps of the Palestinian refugees, the town of Al-Qunaytirah and universities of Syria. In Lebanon, the mission met with Premier al-Wazzan and the former Premier Salim al-Huss and the various government officials.

Also in Lebanon, the mission met with George Haddad, a Christian cleric who supported the Islamic revolution of Iran, Ahmad al-Zayn, a prominent mufti, and the mission also visited the industrial school founded by the martyred Dr Chamran, the former representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Council of Defence, who had spent years in Lebanon fighting the Zionist regime and finally was martyred in the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran. In those visits, the mission spoke on the universal Islamic movement.

GHARAZI ON PETROCHEMICAL TALKS WITH JAPAN

LD271848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the third round of talks between the NIOC officials and their Japanese partners at the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Complex ended today in Tehran after 5 days of talks.

The talks, which began last Tuesday and ended today, lasted 30 hours and dealt with the principles of future cooperation and partnership in various ventures, including investments necessary for the complex as well as its specialized fields. They also dealt with securing the raw materials needed by the complex, its construction and operational plans, issues related to exploitation and methods of sale of its future products and other issues concerned with the two sides' participation in this gigantic petrochemical complex.

After the talks, the two sides met Minister of Petroleum Gharazi at his office this evening. Afterwards our correspondent spoke to the minister of petroleum about the future of Iranian-Japanese cooperation in the complex.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Talks between Iranians and the Japanese were held in Tehran for 5 days. Can you please comment on the outcome of the talks?

[Gharazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the martyrs, the imam of the nation and the fighting Iranian nation. The talks are inconclusive and thus remain unfinished, because up till now the matter has been handled in a complex manner, while attempts have been made to leave the extent and limits of this mammoth investment unspecified.

During this round of talks our brothers at NIOC managed to make their Japanese partners understand and accept that the amount of the investment should be made clear, that as far as the investment's return and profit are concerned they should be viable for both the Islamic Republic, being one side to the agreement and a partner, and the Japanese construction company, being the other side to the agreement and a partner.

At present Japan is mainly focusing its attention on the repayments of loans already obtained. It claims that the production is erratic and that the repayments should be made through production. Therefore, Japan either refuses or is unable to make its repayments which are already due. What we said is that we do honor our agreement, that it is true that we have not managed to start up production but that we can, on the basis of the agreement continue the investments and settle the Japanese difficulties. We said to them that the matter will remain as it is at present until the marketing of the products of the complex is profitable.

One good outcome of our meetings was that we proposed a specific condition to the Japanese and they agreed to continue our talks into the next round, while asking their construction partners to bear in mind our investment ceiling as well as the future of the project.

[Question] Will it not lead to an indefinite series of talks?

[Answer] This, at any rate, is a problem that has afflicted our nation for the past 10 years. Unfortunately, under the former regime, the matter was not dealt with in a decisive manner. We are obliged, on the one hand, to repay our debts to the Europeans, to the foreign banks and, on the other, we cannot dispense such huge sums of investments. Consequently, the talks must continue as long as necessary, until such time when we are certain that, on the one hand, the work will definitely be completed and, on the other, the investment shall bear a return.

[Question] Do you feel that the Japanese wish to opt out of completing the project or are you hoping that they will resume their work and continue it under the conditions envisaged in the agreement?

[Answer] Needless to say, we too believe that the Japanese are facing certain problems, particularly these construction companies who have their own difficulties. However, this round of talks did not show any sign that they wish to keep the negotiations in a suspended state. This round of talks was, to some extent, promising.

[Question] Well, what is the future of these projects [words indistinct]?

[Answer] We are dutybound to see this huge investment through. We shall do whatever necessary in this connection. We are familiar with petrochemical issues at the global level. We have also studied the problem facing Japan in the Middle East and their problems in connection with Iraq -- Japanese investments in that country -- and in connection with Saudi Arabia. We are not going to dispense with the issue easily. The investment made by the Iranian people in this field must be returned to them. At any rate, there are highly complex issues involved, most of which, thank God, have been specified. We intend to pursue the matter and shall not allow the Japanese to make a unilateral decision or, for example, to ignore so much investment.

Thank you. [end recording]

DETAILS OF 27 FEB CABINET SESSION REPORTED

LD271502 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Cabinet met this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. The session began with the recitation of verses from the glorious Koran.

During this session, after an interpretation of another part of the edict issued by Imam 'Ali -- may peace be upon him -- to Malik al-Ashtar, the secretary to the Cabinet's Economic and Financial Commission reported on the latest decisions taken by that commission. After discussion, 11 of the suggestions and decisions of the Economic and Financial Commission were approved.

In accordance with the above, the Cabinet agreed to allocate 482 million rials for completion of the petrochemical industries project; to allocate 2.9 billion rials to pay for the cost of gendarmerie operations; to secure a fund of 200 million rials to pay for military operations by the police; to secure 50 million rials to pay the communications and customs costs of IRNA; and to secure 160 million rials to pay the salaries of the employees of Khorramshahr's public warehouses.

According to the Central News Unit, during today's session Mr Gonabadi, minister of housing and urban construction and secretary to the Technical Commission, proposed his commission's recommendations and, after an exchange of views, a number of these suggestions were approved.

After that, the report by the Services Commission was put forward and after its debate and study a number of the suggestions put forward by that commission, too, were approved as follows: removing the institute for the mentral training of children and young people from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and attaching it to the Ministry of Education and Training; authority to conclude insurance agreements with dental technicials by the Ministry of Health; changing the name of Iranair to IRI Air.

According to this report, also during the session Mr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, reported on his meeting with Olof Palme, who has visited our country for the seventh time for talks about the imposed war.

Then Mr Asgharnia, governor general of Kordestan, who attended today's Cabinet session, gave a comprehensive report on activities in that province.

In his report, the governor general emphasized the need for further strengthening agriculture and industry in that region, and he invited the ministers to hold seminars in Kordestan for that very purpose. He also presented some of that province's problems and the necessary decisions for solving them were taken.

Kordestan's governor general said: Blasphemy's united front declares there is no security in Kordestan. But today the toiling Muslim Kurdish people when they see how the infidel and hypocritical minigroups open fire on their 12-year-old schoolchildren, realize full well that these minigroups are not the protectors of the Kurdish people.

The prime minister thanked the governor general of Kordestan and gave special powers to the governors general of Western Azarbayjan and Kordestan for the reconstruction of government departments in these two provinces.

Mr Asgharnia also suggested that IRI Air flights from Tehran to Sanandaj should be resumed as soon as possible.

At the conclusion of today's session Mr Najafi, minister of culture and higher education, spoke about Iran's participation in the forthcoming UNESCO conference and the Cabinet agreed that he should lead a delegation to take part in that conference.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON WAR WITH IRAQ

LD282336 Tehran IRNA in English 1928 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 28 Feb (IRNA) -- Minister of Defense Colonel Salimi said that the recent security pacts concluded between the Persian Gulf states resulted from the fact that Iran's Islamic revolution had seriously affected the people of the region. These states, said the minister, are confronted with the opposition of their peoples and the latter's receptivity towards the Islamic revolution of Iran. Therefore, he concluded all the agreements concluded by these governments and the military equipment extended to them, such as AWACS, (?gunboats) and ammunition, would be gratuitous, because, Colonel Salimi pointed out, when they all aimed at serving the enemies of the Islamic Republic, headed by the United States and the Zionist regime, the people of the region could not support them.

The defence minister, who was expressing his viewpoints in an interview with the monthly periodical PASDAR ENQELAB (DEFENDER OF THE REVOLUTION), then referred to the aid to Iraq from the reactionary governments of the region, including Jordan, and said that the future of the imposed war was very clear because it is the Islamic combatants of Iran who are leading the war, with very high morale and with the firm support of the people. "Our troops," said the colonel, "are holding the upper hand and the Iraqis are retreating each day, sustaining high casualties and losses.

The minister stated that the dispatch of Jordanian "volunteer forces" to Iraq was a mere propaganda ploy designed against Iran's Islamic revolution by international Zionism and global imperialism, headed by the United States, through their puppets. Nevertheless, added the colonel, they amount to nothing when measured against the will of the revolutionary nation of Iran.

Speaking about the military hardware needed by Iran and the prolongation of the war, Colonel Salimi said "we are not short of military equipment because our factories are producing the main portion needed by our country, and we obtain the rest from the countries willing to deal with us, of course, taking into consideration our 'No East, No West' policy as well as our determination to remain independent."

The defence minister said that "we do not anticipate any specific time for the Iraqi-imposed war to end," and he added: "Of course, we have always sought calm and peaceful co-existence respecting the rights of others within the limits of the law. Nevertheless, an aggression has been launched upon us and we will never give in to any cease-fire with the enemy remaining inside our territory. We will make no peace or compromise under this condition. The enemy troops must withdraw from our lands and reliable authorities should identify the aggressor."

The minister concluded his statements by saying that "so far as the international authorities are unable to stop the aggression of the enemy, we ourselves will do this and the war will continue until that time."

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 802-804

802: 26 Feb Report

LD261734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Communique 802 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. In the past 24 hours the aggressive enemy's positions, fortifications, personnel and armored equipment came under the heavy-weapon fire of our combative units on most western and southern fronts.

On the Meymak and Salehabad fronts, our zealous combatants set fire to three enemy trenches and killed or wounded a number of the Saddamists.

In the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, the Bazi Deraz, (Kaseh Shur) and Sonboleh positions came under fire and losses were inflicted on the enemy.

In the Gilan-e Gharb area, our forces' fire resulted in the destruction of the enemy's ammunition dumps and fuel tankers; a number of Iraqi personnel were killed.

In the Tang-e Chazzabeh area, exchanges of fire are continuing, and as a result of our artillery units' fire, one tank and five observation posts of the enemy were destroyed and eight of the aggressors were killed.

In the Susangerd area, the combatants of Islam managed to destroy one ammunition store and one 106-mm gun of the enemy, together with its crew.

In the Abadan area, artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed 1 ammunition dump, 1 ammunition-carrying vehicle and 1 gun of the enemy and killed 12 of the aggressors.

Gunfire by the Gendarmerie units of the Islamic Republic of Iran set fire to 1 ammunition dump on the other side of the Arvand Rud and killed 20 Iraqi servicemen.

Opening fire on the aggressor's positions in the occupied zone in Khorramshahr, the combative personnel of the navy destroyed several trenches and halted all enemy activity.

On the western Dezful, Shush and Reqabiyeh fronts, exchanges of fire are continuing with our forces enjoying superiority.

803: 27 Feb Report

LD271758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Communique 803 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, several fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked the Kirkuk refinery but there is no exact information available regarding the damage inflicted.

Yesterday, fighting continued on the southern fronts from the west of Dezful to Khorramshahr, including the Ahvaz and Abadan fronts, with exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire between our powerful forces and that of the aggressive Iraqi Army. The fighting was most intense on the Chazzabeh front.

On each front, the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran silenced the fire of the Iraqi forces, inflicted casualties and damages on them and prevented them from moving. The combatants of the gendarmerie on the Abadan front returned enemy fire and opened fire on enemy positions beyond the Arvand Rud, thereby killing a number of Saddamist forces, destroying five machinegun positions and some equipment and setting fire to one of their assembly points. In addition, the heroes of the navy stopped enemy activities on the Khorramshahr front and inflicted some damage on the Saddamist forces.

Yesterday part of Abadan came under long-range enemy artillery fire, as a result of which some homes sustained damages and a number of dear Abadani citizens were martyred or wounded.

On the western fronts of the country, fighting continued with exchanges of fire. The damage and casualties sustained by Saddam's forces on the Ilam front were the heaviest. On this front, due to the artillery fire of our ground forces, six enemy trucks carrying spare parts and a considerable number of enemy positions and fortifications were destroyed and a number of their personnel were killed or wounded.

The combatants of the gendarmerie opened artillery fire on enemy positions in the Panjwin and Shur-e Shirin regions, as a result of which six heavy- and light-weapon positions and one ammunition depot of the Saddamist forces were set on fire and destroyed yesterday.

Also yesterday a number of Iraqi planes belonging to the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces violated the airspace of the border regions of our country but were confronted with the anti-aircraft fire of our armed forces and were forced to flee.

In the battles fought on 24 and 25 February, 39 of the selfless combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred. Peace be upon their souls and may their path be victorious.

28 Feb Report

LD281826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Communique 804 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. Our able combatants in the last 24 hours fired on enemy positions in the Meymak and Salehabad regions, destroying four enemy vehicles, one tank and one engineering drilling vehicle as well as killing a number of the aggressor enemy personnel.

In the Sumar and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab regions, our forces answered the Iraqi fire and destroyed one enemy heavy machinegun and a number of trenches. A number of Saddam's personnel were killed or wounded in this operation. In the Ilam region, heavy-weapon fire mounted by the gendarmerie and the ground forces halted enemy movements and destroyed five trenches belonging to the aggressor forces.

On the Shush and Reqabiyeh fronts, a ground forces artillery unit destroyed an enemy heavy machinegun, 2 vehicles and 3 trenches and killed or wounded 21 Iraqi personnel.

On the Susangerd front, heavy-weapon fire by the gendarmerie destroyed one Iraqi heavy machinegun with its crew and damaged a vehicle.

Enemy losses in the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational sectors included 13 trenches, a heavy machinegun, a mortar, an observation tower and a fuel dump. During these operations, a number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

Yesterday Saddam's army brought the city of Abadan once again under heavy shelling, inflicting human losses and material damages, as well as destroying a number of civilian units.

In the region west of Dezful, our forces continued to defend their positions while mounting fire on the enemy positions.

On 26 February, nine personnel of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the lofty rank of martyrdom on the southern and western fronts. Long live their souls.

IRAQI OIL INSTALLATIONS IN AL-FAW DAMAGED

LD262250 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 26 Feb (IRNA) -- Parts of the Al-Faw oil installations, within Iraqi territory, were set ablaze, inflicting considerable damages, when hit by the Islamic combatants during the 24 hours preceding Friday evening.

Meanwhile, one concentration post, one truck carrying personnel, three individual bunkers, one observation post, one mortar launcher, one 50-calibre machinegun were demolished and several Iraqis killed in the occupied part of Khuninshahr in the southwest of Iran.

IRAQI LOGISTICAL ROUTE IN SOUTH OF IRAQ ATTACKED

LD271930 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 27 Feb (IRNA) -- Fifteen Iraqi soldiers were killed Saturday when the Islamic combatants blasted an enemy logistical route in the southern Iraqi region of Fakkeh, smashing nine enemy vehicles, one tank and one munitions depot.

Also, the Iraqi artillery fire was silenced south of the Neysan River by the Islamic forces.

A report from Ahvaz further stated that exchanges of fire continued in the southern fronts, with the Iranian combatants holding the upper hand over the 24 hours preceding Saturday.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN ON FIGHTING IN NORTH

GF281724 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] In a widespread attack on Shirgah in Mazandaran armed combatants have killed four guards and severely wounded another six. The armed combatants, in their surprise attack against the so-called members of Mobilization, who are the mercenaries of the regime's Revolution Guards Corps, inflicted heavy damage on a base of Khomeyni's mercenaries in Mazandaran.

After their attack on the Mobilization headquarters in Mazandaran's Shirgah, the armed combatants returned safely to their bases in the forests of the area.

In the attack a great deal of arms and ammunition fell into the hands of the armed combatant compatriots. During the clash, none of the compatriot fighters was harmed.

KHOMEYNI CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO ESFAHAN IMAM

LD281534 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Condolence message from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to the Friday imam of Esfahan marking the death of his son on the battlefront]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "We are created by God and we shall return to Him." [Koranic verse]

Your Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam Taheri, Friday imam of Esfahan: The sad news of the martyrdom of your son is both tragic and regrettable; however, who can claim a higher place than the pious and pure progeny of the prophet -- peace be upon him -- than those who gave their lives for dear Islam; who can claim a higher place than you, the valiant son of the master of martyrs [Imam 'Ali] and your esteemed family, in your selfless endeavors for [word indistinct] God Almighty; who can claim a higher place than the great Iranian nation in safeguarding and promoting Islamic justice; who can claim a higher place than Saddam and the Saddamists in committing such crimes and martyring the children of the Koran and the progeny of the immaculate and pious martyrs of Karbala'?

We have no fear in seeing our loved ones martyred for Islam, this sacred goal, our evidence being the fathers and mothers of our dear martyrs who so enthusiastically welcome the martyrdom of their dear children, which reminds one of Imam 'Ali and his Aunt Zeynab -- peace be upon them.

I express my condolences for this martyrdom and the martyrdoms of other sons of Islam, both on and behind the battlefronts, to the hidden imam -- peace be upon him -- and yourself and the families of the martyrs. I pray to God Almighty for your dear martyr as well as other martyrs, and pray for dignity, patience and health for you and other families. God bless you all.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni, 28 February 1982

IRNA REPORTS 27 FEB ASSASSINATION, ATTACKS

LD281116 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 28 Feb (IRNA) -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Hojjati, a member of the militant ulema society and a member of one of Tehran's committees was assassinated by monafeqin [hypocrites] (MKO) on Saturday evening in Tehran, according to the Central Committee of Tehran. The hojjat ol-Eslam was martyred while he was on his way home after holding evening prayers. The funeral procession for the martyred hojjat ol-Eslam will be held on Monday morning.

Head of the Police Department Colonel Seyyed Ebrahim Hejazi survived an assassination attempt Thursday morning.

Several were martyred and many others wounded when a powerful bomb exploded in Sepah Square (formerly Eshratabad) in eastern Tehran on February 22nd. The martyrs included schoolchildren, revolutionary guards and pedestrians. "Monarchist" claimed responsibility for the explosion, which coincided with the anniversary of the defunct shah's father's coup d'etat in 1921.

AFP: MOJAHEDIN CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR MURDER

NC281913 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 28 Feb (AFP) -- A self-styled member of Iran's opposition left-wing Mojahedin today claimed they yesterday gunned down Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Hojjati, deputy head of a southwest Tehran revolutionary committee.

In a telephone conversation with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, an anonymous caller claiming to belong to the rebel Mojahedin, said the group killed Hojjat ol-Eslam Hojjati "late yesterday at 7:30 pm local time".

The daily newspaper ETTELA'AT meanwhile said two other people were also killed late yesterday in the same suburb, adding that Mojahedin gunmen, or "hypocrites" -- an official designation used here to describe one rebel (?gang), fired at Hojjat ol-Eslam Hojjati from a car as he was returning home from his mosque.

One of the "hypocrites" later committed suicide by taking cyanide in a house where he took refuge, the paper added.

Another Mojahedin reportedly died and two others were arrested, and one security force member was killed, when revolutionary guards last night raided a north Tehran house used as a Mojahedin storage depot.

5 EXECUTED FOR 'ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES' IN ILAM

LD282132 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT 28 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 28 Feb (IRNA) -- The Islamic Revolutionary Court of Ilam passed death sentences for five persons, it was announced today. The persons were found guilty on charges of espionage activities for Iraq involving the smuggling of foreign exchanges, and illegal travels to foreign countries, as well as smuggling arms, masterminding plots against the Islamic Republic, adultery and robbery. The sentences were carried out this morning.